

Editorial Section of the Ontario Argus

NATIONS GOING BANKRUPT.

It does not take much to convince one that the warring nations of Europe are on the verge of bankruptcy. Indeed when we remember the tremendous cost of carrying on the war we are only surprised that the value of foreign money in American gold has not become cheaper than it is. We wonder if the enormous debts these nations are piling up will ever be paid, and how.

We are not skeptical, therefore about the authenticity of a story which came from German resources that Russia is about "all in" financially, having failed to realize more than about one-half of the last loan of a billion rubles. A German newspaper professes to have the stenographic notes of a secret meeting of the Russian finance committee at which the desperate situation was discussed. France and Great Britain could not come to Russia's relief any longer, and her only hope was the United States. This is not the first time Russia was reported to be in a bad way financially.

The Amsterdam Telegraf published an article a few days ago saying that at a secret meeting of cabinet ministers, political leaders and influential writers, just before the session of the German reichstag, the secretary of the treasury explained that the new German war loan would completely exhaust the empire's financial resources and that the issuance of exchequer bonds would cause bankruptcy. The article said that the financial secretary therefore urged an early peace. France too, is in a bad way financially, according to a German report. France has strained the last pound and bankruptcy stares her in the face. Even Great Britain, supposed to be the strongest of financial powers at war, is said to be up against it. She must pay out so much gold because of heavy imports and reduced exports.

Probably there is an element of truth in all these contentions. Very likely, too, most of the countries at war are in practically the same fix. But war can be waged while there is food and clothes for soldiers. Even if the belligerents do violate the laws of sound finance it does not mean that fighting must therefore stop.

TERMS OF PEACE.

Terms of peace are in the air. While there is little likelihood of any definite movement taking place at this time it is the hope of every human being who is not a blood-thirsty villain that the time is not very far distant when the warring nations may be brought to their senses enough to consider a proposal looking to the termination of the war.

When that time arrives the United States is sure to take a prominent part in the negotiations preliminary to the actual settlement of the issues raised by the war. A discussion of the terms upon which peace is possible is therefore a very appropriate topic for consideration by the American people.

One of the principles contended for by the socialists of Germany strikes us as a sound one. It is their contention that no territory should be annexed to any nation as a result of the war unless a majority of the people in the territory affected are favorable to the annexation. This, it is argued, will make the recurrence of future wars less likely. This contention should not be despised. It is a wholesome principle, and if it had been a guiding thought in the minds of those who drafted peace treaties in the past the stability of governments in Europe would have been surer. In its essence it is the American principle of the right of the governed to have a voice in government. For the very highest right of the governed ought to be a right to say what should be the nationality of the people, and to what monarch or governing authority homage should be paid.

It will be difficult to apply this principle when representatives of the belligerents meet to draft a treaty. If they should gather now Germany would contend that she is victor and demand a lion's share of territory. The question of Belgium will be the main stickler. Germany will contend for a big slice or perhaps all of the con-

quered territory, but it will never be granted. She might relinquish her claim in consideration of the restoration of her colonies. But possession of Belgium, which Germany will probably be able to hold until the end of the war, will be a big advantage in dickering, though it to be hoped that Belgium will be restored as an independent nation. Poland is different. If a vote could be taken the Poles could not favor a return to Russian rule, even if the alternative were government under the kaiser. Her choice, of course, would be restoration to her independence, a consummation and Lorraine are partly in the hands of the French and while Germany would fight any proposition which would mean loss of her former domains, there is no doubt that the sympathy of the majority of the provinces favor France, and therefore they could be restored to that country.

The tributes paid to the bravery of the Russian troops, who have conducted a masterly retreat in good order in the face of a terrible onslaught of the enemy are deserving. Yet there is an element of the amusing in the comments from London based on opinions of military critics. They are continually pointing out how the Teutons have practically failed in their great object of crushing the Russian armies. While these comments are given prominent mention there is published at the same time an official review of the campaign against the Russians for the four months beginning May 2, in which it is claimed, in what are stated to be conservative figures, that the Russians lost during this period 1,400,000 men, 300,000 being the total of killed and wounded, and the balance of over a million, taken prisoners. This was practically the number of troops directly engaged in front of the German armies at the beginning of the campaign. The Russians undoubtedly have a pretty big army left, made up of reinforcements and new troops. But, if the German official figures are anywhere near accurate the rejoicing that Germany has failed to attain its main object sounds like whistling in a graveyard.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

(By W. W. Howard.)

The O. A. C. situated at Corvallis is an institution of which every Oregonian can justly be proud. This school in size is outnumbered in her class by only two other like institutions, Iowa State College and Kansas State College. This alone is a great record, for when the population of the three states is considered, O. A. C.'s record stands out in grand relief. It shows that the people of Oregon believe in this school, and that it is giving them value received. This last may also be said of the University of Oregon for since all duplications of course in the two schools have been eliminated, both are devoting their entire energy to perfecting themselves along their respective lines.

Too few persons take advantage of our institutions of higher education, however. Even though Oregon is reported to have more college graduates in proportion to her population, than any other state, I find that few know in this section the nature of the conditions at the college. The legislature and numbers of bodies of business men visit the school and none have aught but praise when they depart. They may be skeptical until they have seen and then they are among the boosters.

The College is located at Corvallis on the banks of the city of six thousand, with mountain water from Mory's peak and the Willamette River in praise when they depart. They may be separated of the Willamette River. This is a well kept little which to drain.

The healthful surroundings are no better any where. The people here have recognized their duty as guardians of the state's great school and have surrounded it both physically and morally with the very best of conditions. The jail at Corvallis is grown full of spider webs, because they have no use for it.

Turning to the College itself, we find a fine organization. In less than ten years President Kerr has built from a handful of instructors and half a thousand students, a student body of 1600 regular students and a faculty corps of over 160. His one aim has been to make the college of ser-

vice to the people of the state, and that he has succeeded is attested to by its unparalleled growth.

The object of this college is to take a high school graduate who has determined upon what he desires to make his life work and train him so that he can go out equipped to make a success of it. Considering the object of the Agricultural division, a large variety of courses are offered so as to allow one to receive training along the line for which he is best suited. He may specialize along Agronomy lines, as soils and field crops along dairy lines, Animal Husbandry or Horticultural lines, and in this way receive the training for which he is best suited.

The Engineering Division also gives its several branches. Mining, Mechanical, Electrical, and highway engineering all being taught as well as Irrigation and Drainage Engineering. Since these courses are now no longer duplicated by the University of Oregon, they are stronger than ever before. O. A. C. graduates have always been in demand because of their practical training.

Turning to the Forestry Division we find it one of the strongest in our entire country, for but a few miles separates the student from his field of operation. This is a distinct advantage. This course offers one of the most healthful and profitable futures to its students.

The Commercial Division is another one of the important features. This school strives to turn out students prepared to enter the business world in responsible positions, and to be able to work their way to the top. It is not merely a business college training to fit the student to become a stenographer or a bookkeeper, but to train persons capable to do this as well as handle the other lines of business.

The Pharmacy Division is another one of the growing departments. It might appear at first as though this school was out of place, but because of the splendid chemical laboratories at the College, it fits in well. We find the graduates of this school in the drug stores in every part of the State.

One of the divisions about which least need be said because it is so well known is the Home Economics Division. This school has been rotating the young women in small groups at the San Francisco Fair, where they have been running a lunch room in the Oregon Building. This act has so proved the worth of this school that it would make a mistake by enrolling in will need no further advertising. No young this school.

The aim of O. A. C. is to turn out broad well balanced graduates, capable of not alone doing their work, but capable of assuming their duties in every walk of life. Some persons object because students are compelled to study some subjects which they will not use in their business studies which might be called balancing studies, but the present policy of the school is to turn out graduates that know how to live as well as work.

There are fourteen large buildings at O. A. C. used for class rooms and laboratories. They are well arranged on the large well kept campus, the beauty of which never fails to bring forth praise from every visitor, and make every student feel happy to be one of its occupants.

The aim of every parent should be to send their children through some college that is giving a course best suited the child's needs. We often hear persons say that it does no good to send a student to college, but when we run through the list of prominent men who have won enough honors to get their name in such publications as "Who's Who" and find that nearly all are college graduates and then consider what a small per cent of the population are college graduates we must admit the worth of the training.

The Argus has been pleased with the quality of the articles written on the colleges of the Northwest. We realize that it is a difficult task to present adequately the leading aspects of a large and growing institution in the limits of space allowed the writers. College men and women know also that it is impossible to put on paper the essential things which one gets in college. The effort has been made to have the

writers get the spirit of the college into the articles as far as possible and we think they have done so to a remarkable degree. At least one can tell the difference in reading them and in reading a college catalogue.

We have likewise been pleased to note that there has been no tendency to belittle other institutions. As a matter of fact the Northwest is not over supplied with institutions of higher learning. Each one has its work to do and each one is doubtless doing as much as it can do with its limited resources. There is for the present at least and as far as we can see into the future more work to be done than all of them put together can possibly do. There is therefore some reason in the tendency which we are sure the colleges of the Northwest have to work together and to help each other as much as possible to prove to men of affairs that a college education is worth while.

The matter of going away to college is a matter of habit for any community. The more the high school graduates go the more will the custom be established and others will undoubtedly follow. Nearly anyone who has brains and health can get a college education if he wants it bad enough to go after it with a little vim and vigor. A college education is now comparatively easy to obtain as far as finances are concerned if the student is backed by his parents for a third or a half of the expense. Few people are sorry for having gone to college and few parents are sorry for having sent their children there. On the other hand many are sorry that they have not done so. We realize well enough that the colleges are not perfect but we believe too that there is nowhere to be found a cleaner and more sincere group of young men and women than in our educational institutions.

TALKS WITH THE BUSINESS MAN.

(By Nels Darling.)

No matter what line of business you are in, what I shall have to say now, applies.

Suppose you are going to write an advertisement for a cookstove. Get off by yourself where you will not be disturbed in the evening after the store is closed is the best time. Put down in writing all the good points of the stove. Imagine you are talking to a customer and put your arguments on paper. Do not overlook a single strong talking feature. Now go over and over what you have written, cut out all repetitions and unnecessary words, and yet leave the story intact. You will soon learn to say in a few words all that you formerly used in five hundred to tell. Now give this stove talk some catchy heading, such as "Good News for the Housewife," the "Fuel-Saving Stove," "The Stove I guarantee." Give the ad a heading that will attract attention and at the same time say something. Be sure to add the price. Have one price and stick to it. Have your price low enough to start with. Invite folks through your advertisement, to come to the store to see this stove and be ready for them when they come. Have the stove set up, blackened, and ready for inspection. People wish to know all about the things they buy and they want to buy of a man who knows and can tell what he knows.

Roosevelt denies he was criticising the administration in his Plattsburg speech, and just to show how peaceably he is inclined when it comes to finding fault with the way others run the government he fires a few broad sides into Garrison and Daniels.

Some of those A B C diplomats may think a bunch of communications from a number of Mexican leaders will solve the problem, but the United States is sure to learn their mistake even if they don't realize it.

If the trouble with Germany is all settled peaceably what a sad thought to remember that Bryan resigned because Wilson's policy meant trouble.

Whether the war is settled or not the fight for championship in the major leagues will go right on until the deciding game in the world's series is played.